

Survey # F-4-134

Approximate date September 14, 1862

Stone Walls, Mountain Road, Ridge Road

Street Address: South of Reno Monument Road, Fox's Gap

Town, State: Middletown vicinity, MD

private X, public X

This property is included in the survey of resources associated with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain, which occurred on September 14, 1862. Some of the surviving sections of this stone wall appear to be in excellent condition. Constructed of local stone gathered from the fields they enclosed, the walls are situated along the crest of South Mountain just south of Reno Monument Road (old Sharpsburg Road) along the east side Mountain Road (Ridge Road) and north of Reno Monument Road along east side of the Ridge Road trail. This section of fieldstone wall is significant for its role in the direct action of the Battle of South Mountain. Union forces took cover behind the wall as they attacked the thin line of Confederate defence at Fox's Gap. The Confederates also used the walls for cover as they tried to hold back growing numbers of Federals. The Union objective was to gain control of the Turner's Gap about a mile to the north, through which the national Road passed. Attempting to attack the Confederate right, with the goal of driving them back and taking Turner's Gap. For the Confederates, it was crucial to hold the gaps to protect the divided Army of Northern Virginia which was in the valley west of South Mountain. The battle set the stage for the Battle of Antietam three days later. By holding the gaps for the day, the Confederate defenders enabled Robert E. Lee's divided army to reassemble and prepare for battle.

Photo Reference: Photo #

Form Prepared By: Paula S. Reed, PhD and Edith B. Wallace  
Woodward-Clyde  
200 Orchard Ridge Drive  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Date: February, 1998

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-4-134

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Stone Wall along the Ridge Road

and/or common Stone wall along Mountain Road

## 2. Location

street &amp; number Mountain Road

☐ not for publication

city, town Boonsboro

☒ vicinity of

congressional district 6

state Maryland

county Washington

## 3. Classification

### Category

☐ district)☐ building(s)☒ structure☐ site☐ object

### Ownership

☐ public☐ private☒ both

### Public Acquisition

☐ in process☐ being considered☒ not applicable

### Status

☐ occupied☒ unoccupied☐ work in progress

### Accessible

☒ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no

### Present Use

☐ agriculture☐ commercial☐ educational☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ museum☐ park☐ private residence☐ religious☐ scientific☐ transportation☒ other: wall

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maryland Dept. or Nat. Resources, Edward Hallein

street &amp; number Tawes Bldg., 2330 Marker Rd. telephone no.:

city, town Annapolis, Middletown state and zip code MD

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

Liber 1514 (Fred. Co.)

street &amp; number West Washington Street

Folio 965

city, town Hagerstown

state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal☐ state☐ county☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

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### Condition

☐ excellent    ☐ deteriorated  
☐ good        ☐ ruins  
☒ fair         ☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Some of the surviving sections of this stone wall appear to be in excellent condition. Constructed of local stone gathered from the fields they enclosed, the walls are situated along the crest of South Mountain just south of Reno Monument Road (old Sharpsburg Road) along the east side of Mountain Road (Ridge Road) and north of Reno Monument Road along the east side of the Ridge Road trail.

The condition of the stone wall varies from section to section. The southern section first encountered along Mountain Road sits approximately 50 feet to the east of the road in the woods. This section is in excellent condition, stands about 3 feet high and runs east about 100 feet. The second southern section along Mountain Road runs about 500 feet and ranges from good condition to poor. The third section begins on the south side of the power line extending south down Mountain Road. This section is in fair condition. The section along the Ridge Road trail, north of Reno Monument Road is in fair condition.

## 8. Significance

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| Period  | Areas of Significance                           | Check and justify below                         |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military    | <input type="checkbox"/> social/        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other(specify) |

**Specific dates** September 14, 1862 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☒ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This section of fieldstone wall is significant for its role in the direct action of the Battle of South Mountain which occurred on September 14, 1862. Union forces took cover behind the wall as they attacked the thin line of Confederate defence at Fox's Gap. The Confederates also used the walls for cover as they tried to hold back growing numbers of Federals. The Union objective was to gain control of the Turner's Gap about a mile to the north, through which the National Road passed. Attempting to attack the Confederate right, with the goal of driving them back and taking Turner's Gap. For the Confederates, it was crucial to hold the gaps to protect the divided Army of Northern Virginia which was in the valley west of South Mountain. The battle set the stage for the Battle of Antietam three days later. By holding the gaps for the day, the Confederate defenders enabled Robert E. Lee's divided army to reassemble and prepare for battle.

In September, 1862, along the crest of South Mountain at Fox's Gap stone walls lined some of the fields that ran down the eastern slope between the Ridge Road and the Loop Farm Lane, an access road for fields and woodlots, south of the Old Sharpsburg Road. The thinly stretched lines of Confederate Brigadier General Samuel Garland's Brigade defending the gap took advantage of the protection afforded by the walls where they could.<sup>1</sup>

The Union forces of Scammon's Brigade viewed the stone walls of Fox's Gap from the Loop Farm Lane below, here described by Brigadier General Jacob Cox in his Official Report: "...his [Scammon's] brigade being formed in line, under cover of timber, facing open pasture fields, having a stone wall along the upper side, with the forest again beyond this." And moments later, "...they were on and over the wall, the center of Garland's North Carolina brigade breaking before them..."<sup>2</sup> The following day, September 15, 1862, an entry in the Diary of Captain James Wren, 48th PA Vol. describes the scene behind the stone wall: "Just to the right of my skirmish line of yesterday war [sic] tow [sic] Cross roads in the shape of an X ex & on our frut [sic] thear [sic] was a stone fence & behind that fence & in this ex road the enemy

<sup>1</sup>Scott D. Hartwig, "My God, Be Careful! The Morning Battle of Fox's Gap," *Civil War Regiments*, vol 5. #3, Campbell, CA: Savas Publishing Co., p. 38.

<sup>2</sup>Jay Luvaas, and Harold W. Nelson, *US Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam and the Maryland Campaign of 1862*, Washington: Harper Collins, p. 20.

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DOE

☐ yes

☐ no

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lay verey [sic] thick."<sup>3</sup> The crossroads described by Captain Wren were the Ridge Road and the old Sharpsburg Road (Reno Monument Road). These walls figured prominently for both sides in the battle action of the day.

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<sup>3</sup>manuscript, Diary of Capt. James Wren, Antietam National Battlefield Library.

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DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

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## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Military

Resource Type:

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Wall/boundary

Known Design Source: None

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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### Books

- artwig, D. Scott, Civil War Regiments, A Journal of the American Civil War, Vol 5, #3, "Antietam, the Maryland Campaign of 1862". Article entitled "My God, Be Careful! The Morning Battle of Fox's Gap", Savas Publishing Co., Campbell, CA, 1997.
- Luvaas, Jay and Harold W. Nelson eds., The U.S. Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam, The Maryland Campaign of 1862, Harper Collins Publishers, Washington, 1987.
- Murfin, James V., The Gleam of Bayonets, The Battle of Antietam and Robert E. Lee's Maryland Campaign, September 1862, Thomas Yoseloff, New York, 1965.
- Roth, Dave, "The General's Tour of South Mountain", Blue & Gray Magazine, Dec-Jan, 1986-87.
- Schildt, John W., The Ninth Corps, At Antietam, Chewsville, Maryland, 1988.
- Sears, Stephen W., "Fire On The Mountain, The Battle of South Mountain September 14, 1862", Blue & Gray Magazine, Dec-Jan, 1986-87.
- Sears, Stephen W., Landscape Turned Red, The Battle of Antietam, Ticknor and Fields, New York, 1983.
- Stottemyer, Stephen R., The Bivouacs of the Dead, The Story of Those Who Died at Antietam and South Mountain, Toomey Press, Baltimore, 1992.
- Swinton, William, Army of the Potomac, Smithmark Publisher, New York, 1995.
- U.S. War Department, The War of Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol XIX, Parts I and II, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1880-1901.

### Manuscripts


- Frye, Dennis, National Register Nomination Form, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17-A,B,C, 1986.
- Wren, Capt. James, Diary manuscript, Antietam National Battlefield Library.

### Maps

- The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War, Plate 27, Gramercy Books, New York, 1983.
- Engineers Maps, 1862, National Register Nomination, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17-A,B,C, 1986.
- Macombe Map, 1861.

F-4-134

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**B**   
Zone Easting Northing

D

The figure consists of three bar charts labeled D, E, and F. Each chart has a horizontal axis representing the number of children (0, 1, 2, 3, 4) and a vertical axis representing frequency. Chart D shows a distribution with a peak at 1 child. Chart E shows a distribution with a peak at 2 children. Chart F shows a distribution with a peak at 3 children.

[illegible]

H L I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

return to: **Maryland Historical Trust  
People's Resource Center  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7000**



3483 II SW  
(FUNKSTOWN)

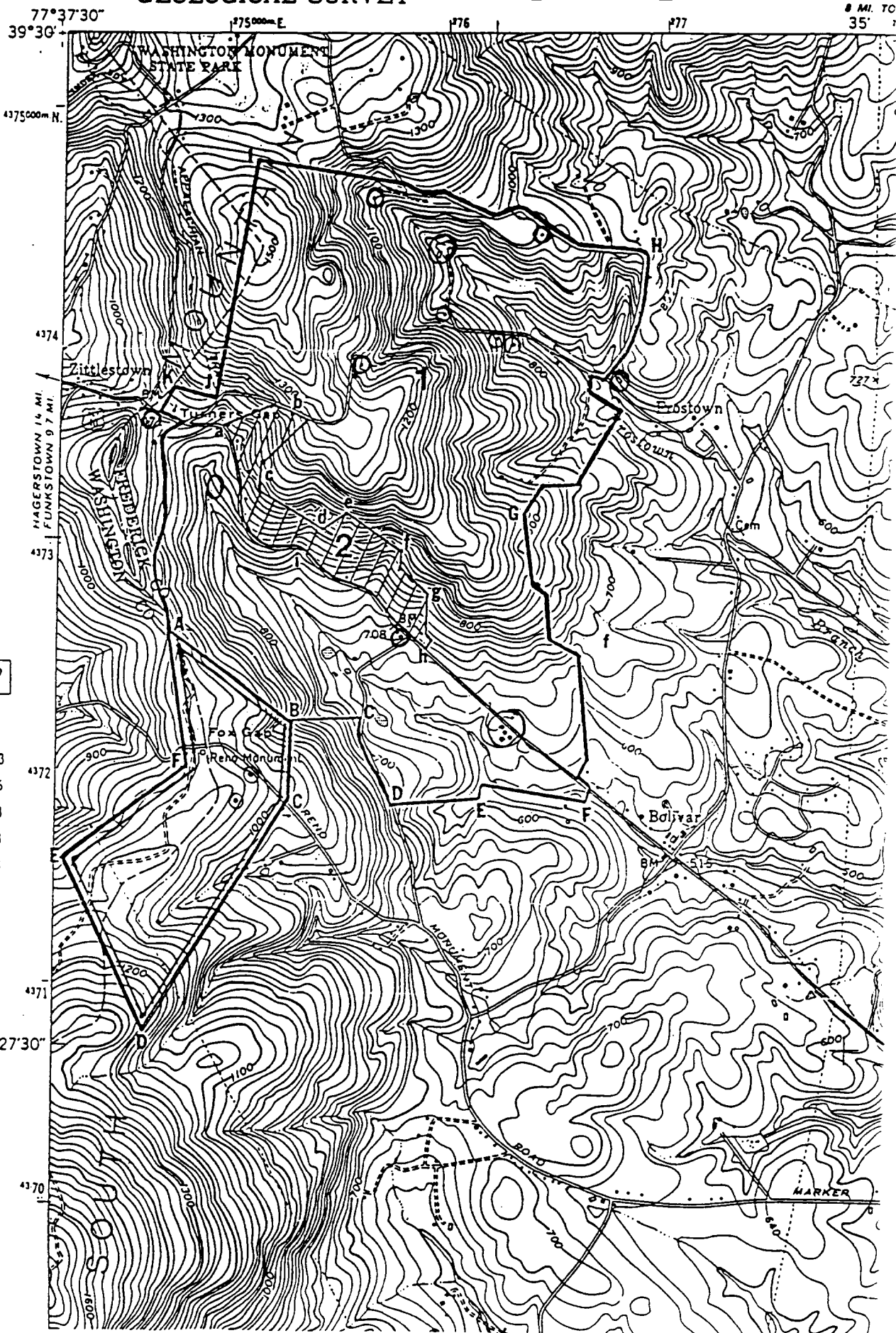
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



10-6

F-4-134

MA.  
8 MI. TO  
35'

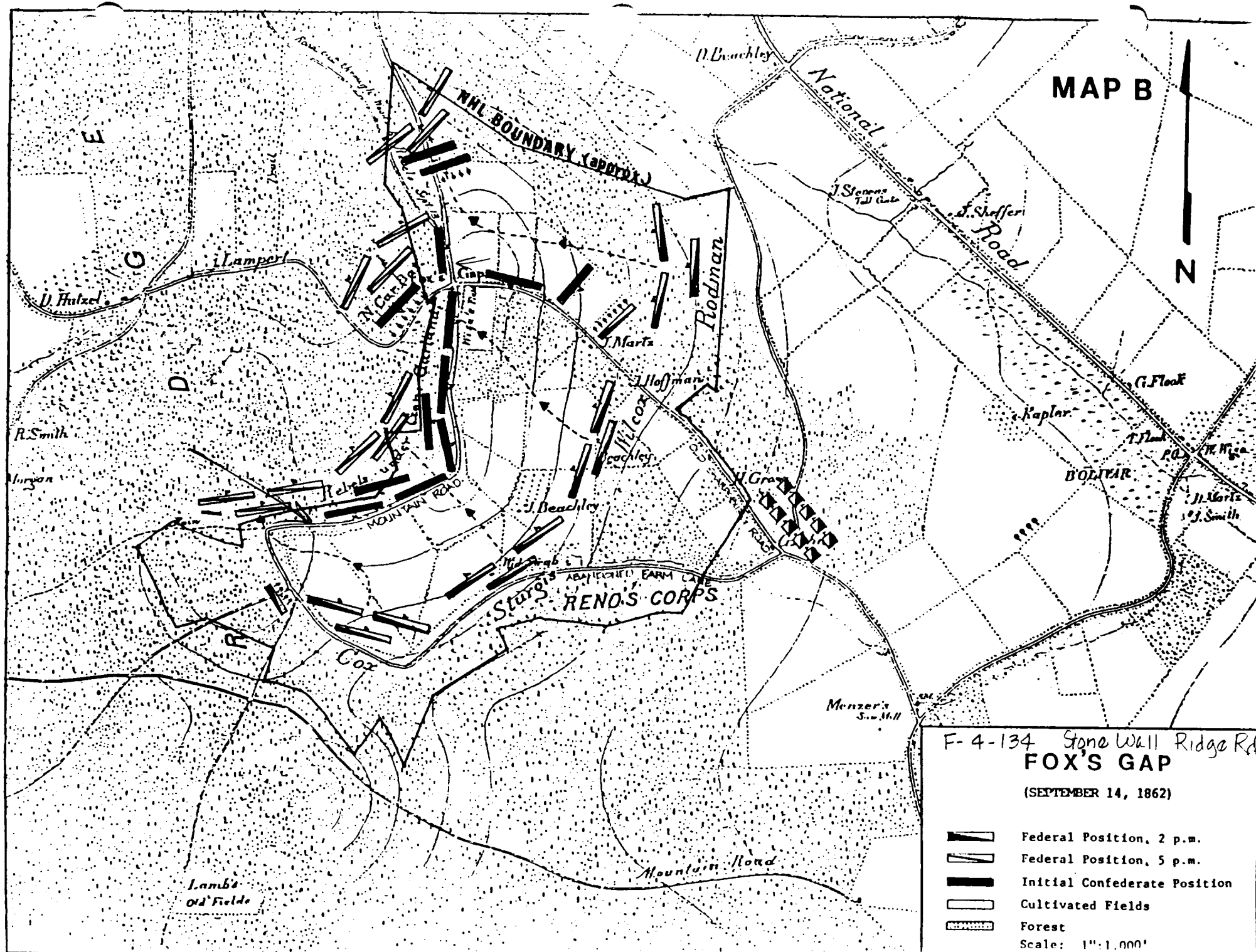


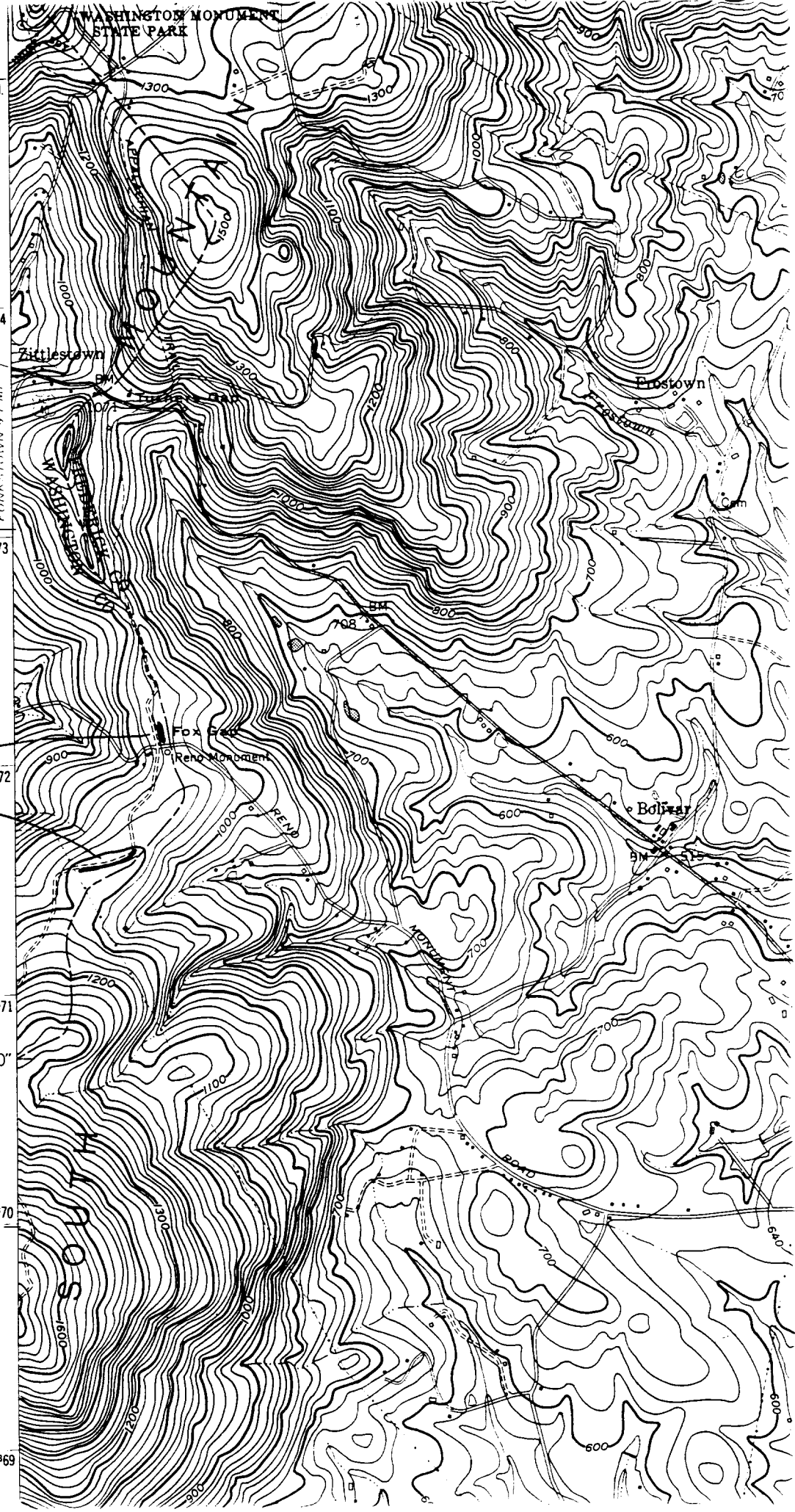
FOX'S GAP

UTM REFERENCES

- A: 18/274784/4372623
- B: 18/275333/4372196
- C: 18/274312/4371863
- D: 18/274662/4370813
- E: 18/274287/4371588
- F: 18/274875/4372000

1  
N





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Stone Wall along  
old Ridge Road

Middletown Quad



F-4-134

Stone wall, Fox's Gap

Washington Co, Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

13 November 1991

Maryland SHPO

view north along Old Ridge Rd

1/1